

### **REMARKS**

[0001] Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-30 are pending. The Office Action mailed April 17, 2008 [hereinafter "Office Action"] stated that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("BPAI") affirmed rejections against independent Claims 1 and 9, but reversed all rejections against Claims 3, 13, and 14, which depend from Claims 1 and 9. The Office Action stated that Claims 1 and 9 are cancelled and directed the Applicants to present the dependent claims in independent form. The Office Action stated that Claims 18-30 are allowed.

[0002] In response, the Applicants have amended Claim 3 into independent form by combining Claims 1 and 3. Claims 13 and 14 depend from Claim 12, which is cancelled. In the decision by the BPAI, the Board stated that it assumed Claims 13 and 14 depended on Claim 11, which the Board stated was allowable. The Applicants have amended Claim 11 into independent form by combining Claims 9 and 11. The Applicants have also amended Claims 4, 7, and 8 to depend from Claim 3 and Claims 10 and 13-16 to depend from Claim 11. The Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 4, 7, 8, 10, and 13-17 are allowable because they depend from allowable claims. The Applicants also acknowledge that Claims 18-30 are allowable.

[0003] Should additional information be required, the Examiner is respectfully asked to notify the Applicants of such need. If any impediments to the prompt allowance of the claims can be resolved by a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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